

PRABHU): (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been entrusted, *inter alia*, with the task of fixation/revision of the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and for monitoring the prices. Decisions on pricing of medicines are taken by NPPA in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. As per price index of pharmaceutical formulations, compiled by Operations Research Group (ORG-MARG), the price index (Base-1994-100), during the year 1999, increased by 4.09% over the preceding year.

(b) The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring the availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

(c) Some pharmaceutical industry associations in the country have urged removal of price controls on drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Leave entitlement of Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers

†*458. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers do not get any annual medical leave and are entitled for only ten days' earned leave in a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intend to provide thirty days' earned leave and ten days' medical leave, with pay, to teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas like other Government servants;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) KV Teachers fall in the category of vacation staff. As such they are entitled to leave meant for vacation Deptts. under the CCS(Leave) rules 1972.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.